

Smallpox Vaccinations and Communicable Disease Rule Change

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The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) will be releasing smallpox vaccine to the Indiana State Department of Health (ISDH) in the next few weeks. This vaccine will be used to immunize two types of Indiana Smallpox Response Teams, public health and hospital-based, which will be responsible for the early response should there be an outbreak of smallpox. Therefore, Indiana clinicians may have occasion to assist in evaluating post-vaccination reactions. It is important for all Indiana clinicians to be familiar with the complications of smallpox vaccination as well as with the recognition and management of smallpox disease.

Because it is important to monitor adverse reactions to smallpox vaccination and transmission of vaccinia virus to others, vaccinia-related adverse events are now included in the Communicable Disease Reporting Rule, effective Feb. 15, 2003. Physicians are required to **immediately** report to local health departments any suspected cases of smallpox disease and the following adverse events or complications related to smallpox vaccination OR secondary transmission to others after vaccination:

- Accidental implantation at sites other than the vaccination site
- Eczema vaccinatum
- Generalized vaccinia
- Progressive vaccinia
- Vaccinia encephalitis
- Vaccinia keratitis
- Secondary bacterial infections at the vaccination site
- Death due to vaccinia complication
- Congenital vaccinia
- Other complications requiring significant medical intervention

Adverse events also need to be reported to the national Vaccine Adverse Events Reporting System (VAERS) and can be reported electronically at <http://www.vaers.org/>.

If a patient has a severe adverse reaction to smallpox vaccination, which may require Vaccinia Immune Globulin (VIG) or Cidofovir, the ISDH Provider Hotline should be accessed at **1-866-233-1237**. This 24/7 hotline will quickly contact Dr. Charlene Graves, Medical Director of Immunization, to route this request on to CDC, the only source of these medications. CDC will also provide 24-hour clinical consultation, which can be accessed through a provider hotline being established there.
